Hoffmann (Münch. med. Wochenschrift, 47, 1900, Nov. 27, p. 1649).

Hoffmann divides the muscular atrophies into muscular, neural and spinal. The latter, of distinct familial and hereditary type, though rare, especially claims the author's attention on account of the ease with which it can often be diagnosed during life. The following peculiarities are noted: Children, who are born of healthy parents and without the aid of forceps, and whose first months of life have been normal, are attacked by the disease between their fifth and ninth months. In the course of weeks or months the motions in the hips become more and more weak, and this without the appearance of any acute symptoms of infection, such as vomiting, diarrhea, or convulsions. Walking, if it has already been begun, will become impossible. Weakness of the dorsal and abdominal musculature soon manifests itself. The disease progresses to the upper extremities and neck, so that eventually the entire system of muscles is more or less paralyzed. The cranial nerves, with the sole exception of the spinal part of the accessorius, are not involved. Atrophy of the muscles, which may be hidden by a well-developed fatty deposit in the subcutaneous tissues, reaction of degeneration, loss of patellar reflex, contracture and a kyphoscoliotic curvature of the spine are found. On the other hand, the mental faculties and sensation are rarely affected except for occasional transient pains. A cure is impossible despite the free use of saline baths, strychnine, phosphorus, the iodides, electricity and quinine; death, from pulmonary complications, invariably occurs from 1 to 4 years. Bulbar symptoms or muscular hypertrophy or pseudohypertrophy have not been observed. Pathologically there is a symmetrical degeneration of the neurones of all nerves below the hypoglossal, of the multipolar ganglion cells of the anterior horns and of the intra- and extramedullary portions of the anterior roots. The brain and the white columns of the cord are unchanged. The cause of the disease is unknown, but is probably due to an inherited weakness of the parts involved. JELLIFFE.

MITTHEILUNG ÜBER EINEN FALL VON TETANIE NACH INTOXICATION (Tetany following Intoxication). F. Dammer (Münch. med. Woch. 47, 1900. Nov. 13, p. 1587).

The author relates the symptoms of a patient who was treated with male fern and calomel for tapeworm and who, soon after the expulsion of the head, developed typical symptoms of tetany with both Trousseau's and Chovostek's symptoms present. Since the ordinary causes of tetany were absent and since calomel is not known to cause tetany, the intoxication was ascribed to the male fern, which is known to cause nervous symptoms of a less-pronounced character.

JELLIFFE.

UEBER EINEN FALL VON MYELITIS APOPLECTICA (Concerning a Case of Myelitis Apoplectica). George Flatau (Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde und Psychiatrie, Jan. 1901, p. 18).

A boy of sixteen years had an abscess of the tooth and probably also one of the antrum of Highmore. He awoke one morning twenty years before he came under Flatau's observation, with paresthesia of the right lower limb and paralysis of the left upper and left lower limbs. Retention of urine persisted fourteen days, and there was also obstinate constipation. At the time Flatau's report was written no paralysis was found in the left lower limb, but both limbs of the left side were less well developed than those of the right side, and some of the muscles of the left upper limb were paralyzed and exhibited reaction of degeneration. Flatau believed the case was one of myelitis apopletica following the abscesses mentioned.

SPILLER.

PATHOLOGY.

LE PHENOMENE DE LA CHROMATOLYSE APRES LE RESECTION DU NERF PNEUMOGASTRIQUE (The Phenomena of Chromatolysis, following the Resection of the Pneumogastric Nerve). C. Ladame (Nouvelle Iconographie de la Salpêtrière, 13th year, 1900, Nos. 4, 5 and 6, p. 301).

This is a very thorough study of the subject, extending through three numbers of the journal. The paper is divided into six main divisions. (1) A consideration of the numerous and varied results obtained by the Nissl method in regard to the finer anatomical structure of the nerve cell and its lesion. Some special modifications of this method, especially the procedure of Van Gehuchten. The special technic employed in this research. (2) A résumé of our knowledge of the finer anatomy of the nervous elements. (3) The study of chromatolysis in general. (4) A critical analysis and a description of the sections of the ganglionic plexus of the bulbar region in connection with the resected pneumogastric. (5) The interpretation of the phenomena observed. and lastly the conclusions derived from the study. The animals used in the experiments were rabbits, dogs, and cats, two of each. All were operated on in the same way. The animals were chloroformed and the pneumogastric nerve was resected in the cervical region for a distance of 1 to 2 cm. After an interval varying from 7 to 195 days, the animals were killed always by chloroform and examined by the methods described. The specimen studies for this paper were cut serially in parafin and stained with toluidin blue. The preference was given to the latter rather than to methylene blue on account of the more simple manipulation and a more exact differentiation. In regard to the phenomenon of chromatolysis in general the author concludes that it differs according to the case, being unlike in sensory and in motor neurones. It is further not the same in all animals, varying according to the age and species. It also varies according to the mode of experiment and the nature of the lesion. It is necessary then always to specify exactly the conditions under which an experiment is made and the observation noticed in each case. The following are the conclusions which the author sets down as the result of his work. (1) The chromatolysis of the plexiform ganglion of the bulbar neuclei of the vagus is a constant phenomenon following the resection of the pneumogastric or vago-sympathetic (dog) of the neck. (2) Chromatolysis is characterized by the disintegration and the disappearance of the chromatin blocks and by the migration of the nucleus. (3) Turgescence is not a regular phenomenon of chromatolysis. (4) The nucleus is active in its displacement during the phenomenon of chromatolysis. (5) The phenomena of reaction and repair are different in the dog, cat and rabbit. (6) Repair is as constant a phenomenon in motor as in sensory cells. (7) The sensory cells are more rapidly